

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for topical application to an animal subject comprising:

a topical vehicle;

~~an~~ at least one irritant ingredient contained in an amount capable of inducing skin irritation in said subject; ~~and~~

an anti-irritant amount of aqueous-soluble divalent calcium cation; and  
at least one aqueous-ionizable counter-anionic species.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 comprising calcium cation in a concentration of from about ~~10-mM~~ 0.18% to about ~~3000-mM~~ 53% by weight.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 comprising calcium cation in a concentration of from about ~~50-mM~~ 0.88% to about ~~2000-mM~~ 35.2% by weight.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 comprising calcium cation in a concentration of from about ~~100-mM~~ 1.8% to about ~~1000-mM~~ 17.6% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 comprising calcium cation in a concentration of from about ~~250-mM~~ 4.4% to about ~~500-mM~~ 8.8% by weight.

6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~6~~ 1 wherein said inhibition of skin irritation represents an average reduction in at least one ~~or more~~ of sting, burn and itch in a susceptible human population upon topical application of said composition- as compared to the level of irritation induced in said population upon topical application of a control formulation containing said at least one irritant ingredient in a vehicle without said calcium cation.

8-9 (Canceled)

10. (Original) The composition of claim 10 wherein said composition is a cosmetic product.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 10 wherein said composition comprises ~~a~~ an irritant ingredient selected from the group consisting of skin exfoliant, skin peel ~~or~~ and skin cell renewal agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 10 wherein said irritant ingredient is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, keto acids,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids,  $\beta$ -hydroxy acids, retinoids, peroxides, ~~and~~ organic alcohols, and combinations thereof.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises lactic acid or a salt thereof.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises glycolic acid or a salt thereof.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises salicylic acid or a salt thereof.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises a combination of lactic acid and salicylic acid, or salts thereof.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises capryloyl salicylic acid or a salt thereof.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises citric acid or a salt thereof.

19-20 (Withdrawn)

21. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises acetic acid or a salt thereof.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises one or more of the group consisting of 1-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylic acid, capryloyl salicylic acid,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy decanoic acid,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy octanoic acid, gluconolactone, methoxypropyl gluconamide, oxalic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, mandelic acid, benzylic acid, gluconic acid, pyruvic acid and phenol.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said irritant ingredient comprises trichloroacetic acid or a salt thereof.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of 1 to 6.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 12 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of 3 to 5.

26-54 (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 52 1 wherein said aqueous-ionizable counter-anion species includes nitrate.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 52 1 wherein said aqueous-ionizable counter-anion species includes a halogen selected from chloride and fluoride anions.

58. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one ~~second~~ additional anti-irritant agent.

59-60 (Canceled)

61. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 58 wherein said ~~second~~ additional agent is selected from the group consisting of potassium channel mediating, regulating or blocking agents, calcium channel blocking or regulatory agents, sodium channel blocking agents, steroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, aloe vera, chamomile,  $\alpha$ -bisabolol, Cola nitida extract, green tea extract, tea tree oil, licorice extract, allantoin, urea, caffeine and other xanthines, ~~and~~ glycyrrhizic acid and its derivatives, and combinations thereof.

62-69 (Withdrawn)

70-76 (Canceled)

77-80 (Withdrawn)

81-83 (Canceled)

84-85 (Withdrawn)

86-97 (Canceled)

98-114 (Withdrawn)